The Daily Eurofurence

Ringberg Hotel Suhl. Friday, 28th August 2009 **#3**

Stage Fever: A Tale of many Tales

Aisha and the Kalif happily united. photo: ang

With 28 fursuiters, a well-written frame narrative and almost two hours of live entertainment, Stage Fever has turned into a major audience magnet that deserves its place in Eurofurence's prime-time.

Audience queues for Stage Fever were running across the entire lobby, from Herberth Roth hall to the main entrance. Scheduled for 19:00, the curtain finally opened at 20:40, not "slightly delayed, as an anonymous screen text pointed out, but "f-ing mighty delayed".

Such details were forgotten once the curtain opened and the audience was drawn into the far away court of the Kalif of Suhlistan. The Kalif, an impatient man, given to fits of cruelty had already considerably reduced the number of his subjects by dismembering and beheading both entertainers and possible brides. Only Aisha, his Grand Vizir's daughter can succeed in wooing him with her gift of storytelling.

Playback Voice-Acting, live Beatboxing

As both sketches and frame narrative were acted out exclusively by fursuiters, the voice acting was all playback - mostly recorded by the actors weeks in advance. A notable exception was Keenora, whose beatboxing was done live on stage. The sketches themselves (Aisha's stories) were of varying quality, ranging from simple slapstick to elaborate multi-person performances.

Memorable moments included a musical boxing match, the "Handy Guide to Creative Animal Costuming" and an equine magician's sleight-of-hoof. In a sketch on botched wish-fulfilment, we learnt that the most powerful amonst furries had to be a female, but the principal object of male desire might well be a keg of beer. Aisha's wishes were not botched, however - she got her Kalif in the end. *(lux)*

The Pawpet Show - Behind The Scenes

The three pawpeteers: Aragon, Lynard and o'wolf.

Ten years on from its debut at EF6, Eurofurence's Pawpet Show is still moving from strength to strength. They put on full theatrical performances - a feat only matched by Confuzzled in the UK - involving hundreds of hours of work with the dedication of 25 staff whose geography makes organising rehearsals tricky. We asked Lynard, one of EF's main puppeteers, what he gets out of all his hard work: "Sometimes I wonder why I do it," he joked, "but when I think about the hundreds of people that we make happy, it makes it all worthwhile."

For more information about puppetry, including past scripts from the EF Pawpet Show, please log on to www.pawpet.eu. (*bar*)

Furs jump to it at DDR competition

Twelve people, a handful of songs and a tournament that ended a little bit too early - yet, it seems that the Dance Dance Revolution Contest was a great success. The event provided the players with the pleasure of playing on arcade-style metal pads instead of the usual soft ones. There were no supporting rails, making the competition a thorough challenge for both beginners and professionals alike. The battle raged on, the arrows on the screen moving faster and faster as each participant had to deal with progressively harder songs. The spectators were dazzled - it seemed as though the players were tying their feet into knots. However, fairness was guaranteed as first timers were pitted against each other while the pros duelled against their own. The music did not follow any particular style; it was a medley of whatever random songs the system selected. This of course provided a challenge to even the most experienced player. In the end the first three positions where held by Littletiger (1), Greskil (2) and CuteFox (3). Congratulations to the winners from the whole "Daily Eurofurence" newsroom staff. (cur)

Royal Storyteller or Eunuch - You decide

"Five words for your story..." photo: tam

Today, 1001 stories are just not enough anymore but the honorable Khalif Al-Keela and his Grand Vizir already work on the solution, proving that 'The Desert Got Talent'. A clash of storytelling prowess took away the citizens' breath as evil Vizirs and cruel Khalifs came head to head with time-traveling cheetahs, the Doctor and one hundred half-naked Gnolls. The contestants had a lot to lose if they failed to entertain his highness; their privates for example. Some were impaled and others where turned into plaster statues. Finally, Footpad was bestowed with the title of "Royal Storyteller" ... at least until he gets too boring and his highness needs some more garden decoration. *(cur)*

Furs Ride Carpet To Breaking Point

Gyroplast gets a look in on the action. photo: bli

Something about the idea of surfing in mid-air seemed to appeal to Eurofurence attendees yesterday as the Fursuit Gameshow's preliminary "Magic Carpet Ride" event attracted higher than expected numbers of both participants and spectators. Despite a minor technical setback during the competition, which was quickly corrected, the result was an electrified main stage as hundreds of people cheered on both the brave riders as they swayed, wobbled and, more often than not, plunged from atop the ride. After a fiercly competed event, Djem emerged as the best fursuiter with a time of exactly two minutes, and Dolan was the longest surviving non-fursuiter at two minutes and fifty seconds. *(bar)*

Keep Calm and Carry On

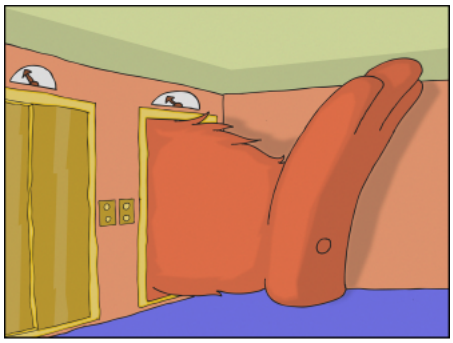
We are prepared to deal with anything, from belly ache to heart attack.

A convention attended by almost 900 furs is usually a breeding ground for a number of ailments. The most well known is probably the so-called "con crud", a version of the common cold that stems from the fact that people from many different countries and regions are squeezed together, sometimes sharing more than just a few hugs and kisses. But this year something else has crept into the global consciousness. As authorities all over the world warn about the dangers of 'Swine Flu', it seems to be reasonable to take a look at how we are prepared to deal with sickness, not necessarily concerning Swine flu itself but from all kinds of health problems that might arise. At the forefront stands our team of paramedics, which consist of Rene, Jörg and Martina. All of them are officially licensed and one of them even holds an educational position, training junior paramedics. A quick glance at their equipment reveals that our attendees are in capable hands, and if there should arise some trouble they are not able to deal with, they can fall back on medical help from outside sources, be it clinics or other healthcare professionals. In reference of the Swine Flu, their statement is crystal clear: "Don't Panic!" and though it is not written onto a book cover in large friendly letters, it is just as reassuring. *(cur)*

Convention Trouble #1573: Some people might take the Swine Flue too seriously. cartoon: Pegla

Convention Trouble

a cartoon by Pegla



Convention Trouble #2391: Elevator size: 10 people does not mean 10 furries.

The Qualifiers are....

The winners of yesterday's Fursuit Gameshow preliminaries (and hence participants in today's main show) are, in descending order of ranks:

1) Shayzo and Tobi, 2) Sahtow and Mandewo, 3) Stripe Kazama and Sharey, 4) Bailey and Storm, 5) Raffa and Ravell, 6) Orthank and Titash, 7) Iris and Polaris, 8) Chibi-Rangfar and Lysander.

We congratulate them on their skill and wish them the best for their upcoming performance on the mainstage, starting at half past two. *(lux)*

Starlit Encounter, pt 3

a story by Bariki

The barman, a desert fox, nudged the stag's arm.

"Don't be making assumptions about her, my friend," he said, wagging a finger. "She may look gentle, but that mare's more maelstrom than puff of wind." Callum nodded, casting a glance back at the now empty stage.

"Friend, what is that maelstrom's name?" said Callum as the fox turned to serve another customer.

"Aasifa" the barman said. "But she..." he trailed off as he turned his head and saw the stag moving towards the door. The fox smiled to himself. They never listened.

"I have time to talk with her," thought Callum as he walked around the small building. "Dan still isn't here, probably isn't coming anyway, so there's no harm."

The Sarang, like most bars, had a rear service entrance for deliveries and staff use, and it was from here that the stag assumed that Aasifa would emerge. The stag's nostrils crinkled as he took in his surroundings: the alleyway behind the bar was small, barely wide enough for a car, and there were endless piles of empty boxes piled up against the dead end wall of the alley. There were hardly any streetlights in Hamam, and only starlight and moonlight to light the town at night. It was hardly the ideal place to meet such a beautiful creature, he thought, but then again the Sarang hardly seemed like the ideal place for her to be working anyway, with its worn stage and decidedly dingy atmosphere.

Callum's ears flicked as he caught the sound of claws on concrete from behind him, and the stag turned to see the three wolves from inside the bar. Up close, they were much bigger and far more threatening than they had appeared inside: fur bristling, muscles flexing in the flickering streetlight. The one in the middle pulled a blade from his pocket and grinned wickedly at Callum as the one to his left barked something that the stag didn't understand in words but understood by its vicious intent – *this is a robbery, buddy.*

to be continued!

Announcements:

The Group Photo will be shot on the terrace at 11:45.

***

The SIG "DJ-ing Techniques" takes place today (not Saturday), at 15:00, Room 5.

***

Tapped beer and soft drinks are also available at the snack bar, facing the reception. Cocktails are only available at the main bar.

Today's Timetable

Main Stage:

The Fursuit Gameshow 13:30-15:00

Furry Music Café 16:30-18:00

Special Interest Groups

Action, not Words (Room 1)
Drawing Vector Style (Room 2)
First Time Fursuiting (Room 3)
Modeling Dinosaurs (Room 4)
Furry History Roundtable (Room 5)
all: 12:00-13:30

Second Life for Dummies (Room 1)
Show Laser Systems (Room 2)
Lucid Dreaming (Room 3)
Furry Shuffle (Room 4)
Furries in the Press (Room 5)
all: 13:30-15:00

Plotlines for Comics (Room 1)
Furry Parents Roundtable (Room 2)
Music Instrument Basics (Room 3)
Concept Costume Character (Room 4)
DJ-ing Techniques (Room 5)
all: 15:00-16:30

The Fox Panel (Room 2)
Non-Material Entities (Room 3)
Guided Meditation 2 (Room 4)
Fur n' Tech (Room 5)
all: 16:30-18:00

Others

Group Photo (Terrace) 11:45-12:15

Charity Body Painting (Artist Alley) 15:00-18:00

* * * Dinnertime * * *

Main Stage:

Art Auction 19:00-21:00

Uncle Kage vs. Two 21:30-00:30

Others:

Charity Pool Party 19:00-00:00

Skittle (40 Thieves) 20:00-00:00

City of Brass (Room 4) 20:00-22.30

DDR Free Play (Room 1)
Xany's Game Corner (Room 2)
Artists Lounge (Room 3)
all: 19:00-02:00

Impressum: Michael "Luxen" Graf (lux), Andreas "Curry" Wieland (cur), Robert "Bariki" Blackman (bar), Hannu-Heikki "hHP" Puupponen (hhp), Emmanuel "Tambako" Keller (tam), Matthias "Angus" Bauer (ang).